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you per Alfred Capt. Felt, and another opportunity offering for Salem I cannot help entreating you again to have the goodness to comply with my request of collecting and sending me some of your most curious plants and particularly such I have pointed out in my former letters, the numerous opportunities from Salem and Boston to this place will afford you every facility in forwarding me same.

I am still expecting to hear from you if you got the plants I left for you at Francis Hotel and how you like them. If you have an European Herbarium or wish to make one I am ready to forward you specimens of the finest and nicest Italian and Sicilian plants in return from those I expect from you and beg you will command in everything else in my power.

Please to remember also to forward me Suplt. you promised me of the plants you have found in your Northern States since the publication of your paper in the American Academy Transactions.

I would entreat you to include in the plants you may send me, particularly those belonging to the tribe of Orchidean, Graminean, Calamariæ, Muci, Algæ, etc., as they are particularly interesting to me and I know you have well determined a number of them through Dr. Muhlenberg's means.

I should like to know the botanical names of all your Cherries, Vacciniums, etc., or a sketch of their descriptions (since you only mentioned their vulgar name in said paper) to enable me to discover it if you cannot send them in nature with the fruits or flowers.

I am most sincerely and with the most grateful wishes,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. S. RAFINESQUE,

Care Mr. Bibbs Conpit,

Un Admer.

DR. MANASSEH CUTLER,                      Palermo.  
Hamilton,  
Near Salem,  
Massachusetts.

avored by Mr.

Th. Bancroft.

#### 'NODULES' IN COLORED BLOOD CORPUSCLES.

'Nodules' in mammalian colored corpuscles, such as those referred to by Professor Macloskie, were described by Mr. Victor Horsley, of London, in an address delivered on May 4, 1897, at a meeting of the 'Arztlicher Verein' at Hamburg. He did not, however, observe them in all the corpuscles, but only in some. In his paper, published, I think, in one of the volumes of collected papers from the Physiological Laboratory of University College, London, he mentions that Arndt saw granules in the red corpuscles which stained with methyl violet. Horsley's own observations were made by the intra vitam methylene blue method. In connection with my work on haemolysis, carried on during the past five years, I have had frequent opportunity to observe that when methylene blue is added to blood laked in various ways, blue granules generally situated eccentrically are revealed in some of the ghosts. G. N. STEWART.

#### A MUD SHOWER.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: On Saturday, April 12, at noon there occurred what has aptly been called a 'mud shower.' Collars and shirt fronts were spattered with dirt. It lasted only a few minutes, but was sufficiently unpleasant to create considerable discomfort. Window glasses on the western exposure of houses were covered with thousands of drops of dirty water. An examination of these drops with a simple microscope showed what appeared to be little membranous bags containing grains of dust. The dust particles were black with occasional instances of yellow and a few of red. The atmosphere at the time of the shower, and before, contained considerable dust. This phenomenon seems to give a striking confirmation of the dust-nuclear theory of the formation of rain drops. J. W. MOORE.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE,  
EASTON, PA.

#### THE 'PRICKLY PEAR.'

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: On page 598, issue of April 11, 1902, is printed the item that the Government of Queensland has offered a reward of \$25,000 for the invention of some satisfactory means of destroying the 'prickly